

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 7 in the following manner:

In step 50, the load balancing proxy server 14 identifies which VoIP proxy server has the lowest workload. Specifically, the load balancing proxy server 14 generates and transmits requests, represented by lines 38 in FIG. 2, to all VoIP proxy servers #1 through #N. Thereafter, the load balancing proxy server 14 awaits a response from any of the VoIP proxy servers. When the load balancing proxy server 14 first receives a response, represented by line 40 in FIG. 2, from a VoIP proxy server, the load balancing proxy server 14 immediately cancels the other requests, represented by lines 42 in FIG. 2. The first responding VoIP proxy server is then assumed to be the VoIP proxy server with the lowest workload and is thus identified by the load balancing proxy server 14. Such identification of the VoIP proxy server with the lowest workload is based on a heuristic that the VoIP proxy server #1 through #N which can first respond to a request should have a lighter workload at the time of receiving the request.